

my colleagues to take careful notice of the operational disadvantages in this substitute. The best path forward is clear. Congress should simply vote to extend the sunsets on the three expiring PATRIOT Act provisions and reject any measure that would tie the hands of those charged with safekeeping and safeguarding our great Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I thank Chairman MIKULSKI and Ranking Member SHELBY for their work on this bill. I rise today to speak about the importance of strengthening the Federal Government's ability to investigate and prosecute the kinds of financial crimes that have contributed to our financial crisis. I am pleased this appropriations bill adds significant resources for fraud enforcement, thanks to Chairwoman MIKULSKI and her committee and their attention to this critical issue.

In May, Congress passed the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act or FERA. In the aftermath of September 11, Federal law enforcement resources were shifted dramatically, and understandably, to counterterrorism.

One of the central features of FERA was to authorize the appropriation of substantial resources to rebuild our capacity to attack mortgage fraud and other white-collar crime. FERA was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. The vote was 92 to 4 in the Senate, demonstrating our shared commitment to this effort.

Today's economic crisis has many causes, from serious regulatory failures to recklessness and greed. While we still have much to learn about what happened, one thing is absolutely certain: We need law enforcement investigators and prosecutors with ample resources and training to drill down now. Only a targeted and thorough investigation can find out the extent to which financial fraud contributed to the crisis and identify the individuals involved who should be held responsible.

We need to look at the mortgage brokers who engaged in systemic fraud. But we must also examine the financial institutions that pooled subprime mortgages and sold them with knowledge that they were toxic, the credit rating agencies that failed due to conflicts of interest to grade the assets properly, and the investment banks that failed to disclose the fair value of the toxic assets on their books.

In order to restore the public's faith in our financial markets and in the rule of law, we must identify, prosecute, and send to prison those individuals who broke the law. If we do less than that, we will fail to serve the American public and we will risk history repeating itself. But these cases are extremely complex. In this area, the bad guys have substantial resources at their disposal to fend off investigations. We need to remain vigi-

lant in ensuring that our investigators and prosecutors are not overmatched.

That is why I am pleased to see the substantial resources devoted to fraud enforcement in this bill. The bill appropriates over \$500 million for fraud enforcement, a 10-percent increase over last year. At the FBI, it adds funding for 50 new agents, 61 new forensic accountants, and 32 professional support staff, all devoted to investigating financial fraud. As a result of this increase and other resource allocation decisions by the FBI, we now will have investigative resources approaching those devoted to the savings and loan crisis. The bill also adds funding for 155 new lawyers and 49 support staff in the Department of Justice and U.S. Attorneys offices, all dedicated to financial fraud enforcement.

I was proud to join with Chairman LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY in sponsoring the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act. I look forward to working with them and our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to make sure these significant new resources are used wisely and effectively.

In closing, I thank Chairman INOUE as well as, again, Chairwoman MIKULSKI and Ranking Member SHELBY for making funding for financial fraud enforcement a high priority of this bill. I look forward to working together going forward to make sure that as the economy recovers, we do not lose sight of the importance of fully funding enforcement efforts, not only to uncover and prosecute financial crimes that have already been committed but also to defer future crimes. Prosecuting bad people won't put an end to bad behavior, but it will have an impact on those people in the mortgage industry, on the trading desks, and in the boardrooms who might be tempted to put greed ahead of the law.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING EARL AND WANDA BARRS

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Earl and Wanda Barrs from Cochran, GA. Last Wednesday, the American Tree Farm System named Earl and Wanda as its 2009 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. This award is presented by the American Forest Foundation through its ATFS program and recognizes outstanding sustainable forest management on family-owned woodlands.

I have known Earl and Wanda since my early days in the House and have always valued their advice and friendship. They have been involved in forestry for over 30 years and have owned and operated Gully Branch Farm since 1987 when they purchased the initial acreage.

This land is very special to the Barrs and they have a long family history connected to it. Earl's great-grandfather and grandfather sharecropped the land for years and, as a teenager, he spent countless hours hunting and fishing there.

Wanda has used her background in education to create an outdoor environmental classroom at the farm. Students, teachers, and forestry professionals from all over Georgia visit their farm to learn about the benefits and science of sustainable forestry. They are then able to take that knowledge back to their respective communities and teach others about the importance of forest stewardship. Every April, the Bleckley County Schools bring thousands of students to Gully Branch farm to have fun and participate in educational activities. Students enjoy wagon rides and learn about the different aspects of sustainable forest management.

This is not the first time Earl and Wanda have been recognized for their achievements in forestry. They were named the 2008 Georgia Tree Farmers of the Year and the 2009 Southern Regional Tree Farmers of the Year. In 2006, they received the Outstanding Achievements in Sustainable Forestry Award, and Wanda has been named the Georgia Project Learning Tree Educator of the Year in both 1990 and 1995, as well as the National Outstanding Educator of the Year in 1996.

I am proud to see the National Tree Farm of the Year award brought to Georgia and look forward to continuing to work with Earl and Wanda to develop policies that will promote sustainable forestry management for generations to come.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it was called to my attention a few minutes ago that our deadline for comments about Ted Kennedy is coming up tomorrow. I wanted to beat the deadline. I always wait until the last minute, it seems. One of the reasons I did is because there are so many things